

and all his other lexicographical materials were turned over to Gage by his widow, when death intervened to prevent his taking up a visiting fellowship awarded to him by the Canada Council. He intended to spend a year in Canada, under the fellowship arrangement, editing his material and consulting with colleagues.

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## HISTORIC BLACKFOOT CEREMONY

Possibly the last historic act of the Blackfoot Indians took place recently with the performance of the pipe-transferring ceremony involving two Alberta museum employees.

Jim Many Bears transferred his medicine-pipe bundle to the Provincial Curator of Ethnology, Mr. John Hellson, and Mr. Dennis Reid was the recipient of a similar bundle belonging to Floyd Yellow Sun.

Dancing, chanting and drumming marked the elaborate eight-hour ceremony conducted by the tribal elders. Band members started the ceremonies by chanting for one hour until they "caught" the new owner located in a nearby teepee. He was then carried on a blanket to the ceremonial teepee, where, to the accompaniment of chanting and singing, the bundles were opened.

The bundle contained the main pipe decked with feathers, a whistle, secondary pipes, paints and animal skins.

The medicine bundles are considered holy by members of the Blackfoot nation and are the official property of the medicine man.

The entire ceremony was recorded and photographed by the provincial archives for future use.

## EDUCATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

*Statistics of Special Education for Exceptional Children*, a new national survey and the first survey of so comprehensive a character on the subject since 1953-54, has just been released by the Education Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

It is based on replies to a questionnaire received from teachers in Canada who are at present instructing exceptional children, and reports for all Canada and by province, on the teachers' background, qualifications, experience and salaries as well as on sex, age, grade-level and type of exceptionality among the children taught. Administrators were also asked to answer a short questionnaire regarding sources of funds for the operation of institutions and the total number of classes operated by school-boards.

For the purpose of the survey, "exceptional" means children for whom special facilities were provided, whether exceptionally gifted, or suffering from some handicap, from the retarded reader to the blind, the deaf, the emotionally disturbed, to those suffering from multiple handicaps and other exceptional

children. Nearly 100 handicaps and combinations of handicaps were reported by teachers.

As few separate facilities exist in Canada for the exceptionally gifted, who are usually dealt with by some form of accelerated programme, the total number reported (8,506) is far below the actual number.

Similarly, the figures for the handicapped include only those children actually enrolled in some kind of special programme because of their handicaps, and do not show the total number of children who would actually require special facilities.

## SURVEY FINDINGS

According to the results of the survey, there are 93 special schools and 3,417 other special classes operated in Canada by school-boards. These employ a total of 4,744 full-time and 123 part-time teachers, and have a combined enrolment of 104,732 pupils.

Another 318 special schools operated by provincial departments of education or by various agencies, such as religious or charitable organizations, provide facilities for a further 16,579 handicapped children.

Of the 5,819 persons engaged in part-time or full-time teaching of exceptional children, 977 hold university degrees, 1,812 hold both teachers' and special certificates, 2,234 hold basic teachers' certificates and 554 hold no certificates.

## FITNESS-ASSESSMENT GRANT

A sum of \$35,000 for the assessment of the fitness of Canadians between 18 and 40 was among 20 grants, totalling \$200,120, announced recently by Mr. Allan J. MacEachen, National Health and Welfare Minister. These grants will be used for research in fields related to fitness and amateur sport.

The fitness-assessment grant - the largest recommended by the Research Review Committee of the National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport for the fiscal year 1968-69 - goes to two medical researchers at the University of Ottawa, who will try to develop a set of national standards for the levels of fitness of Canadian adults. The project will also, it is hoped, develop a work-capacity study, in which investigators will try to judge the amount of energy the average man expends in performing various physical tasks.

In an effort to ensure uniform national testing, 24 research investigators will be trained at Ottawa University to carry out the projected tests throughout the country.

Responsibility for the training and testing has been assumed by the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (CAHPER).

The CAHPER Research Committee has already finished an investigation of the fitness performance and work capacity of 11,000 Canadians between 7 and 17. As a result of this survey it was felt that an extension of the studies to adults would be useful. A random sample of about 2,000 men and women between 18 and 40 will be used. The results of this